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# Dept. of Education Closes All Public Schools Due to Tropical Storm Ernesto

**VIDE closes schools to ensure student safety; faculty and staff required to secure facilities ahead of storm's impact**

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Staff Consortium **August 13, 2024**

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ST. THOMAS — The V.I. Department of Education has announced that all public schools will be closed today, Tuesday, as a precautionary measure due to the developments of Tropical Storm Ernesto. Students are advised to remain at home for safety.

VIDE said it has instructed all employees, including faculty and staff at both district and state levels, to report to their respective work locations today. The focus for employees will be on securing their work stations, schools, and resources to protect against potential weather-related impacts such as heavy rain and strong winds. It is crucial that all areas are carefully protected to minimize damage.

After securing their premises, employees will receive further instructions regarding work operations. Employees are reminded that they must report to their offices and schools before any dismissal directives are given.

Specifically, employees residing on the island of St. John are instructed to report to the Julius E. Sprauve School to assist with securing the school.

As the territory prepares for Tropical Storm Ernesto, VIDE urges all stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students, parents, and guardians, to closely monitor the storm's developments and stay tuned to official informational channels for updates. The department emphasized the importance of taking all necessary precautions to stay safe and protected during this time.

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